

APRIL 12, 2018

Dear Vaccines For Children Providers,

Please carefully review this statement from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received by the Kansas Immunization Program (KIP) last Friday. Please see further information from KIP specific to implementation activity in Kansas following the CDC quote.

We are writing to inform you that the manufacturing issue related to hepatitis B vaccine that Merck began experiencing in 2017 is expected to continue throughout 2018. As a result, Merck's supply of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine will be intermittent during 2018 and Merck will not be distributing its adult hepatitis B vaccine. GSK has confirmed that it can continue to support full demand for pediatric hepatitis B vaccine in the United States throughout 2018, using a combination of monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine and its DTaP-HepB-IVP pediatric combination vaccine (Pediarix).

Between the two manufacturers, CDC anticipates there will be approximately 10% less monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine than normal during the rest of 2018. The expected monovalent supply will provide sufficient vaccine to cover the hepatitis B birth dose for all children as well as additional pediatric hepatitis B vaccine for second and third doses. However, some adjustments will be needed from providers because of the decrease in monovalent vaccine. [CDC has developed guidance for providers that are available on our website.](#)

To ensure that awardees have equitable access to hepatitis B vaccines, CDC is placing the following vaccines under allocation effective immediately:

- ***Recombivax HB vial (00006-4981-00) and syringe when available (00006-4093-02)***
- ***Engerix B (58160-0820-52)***

For the month of April, awardees will receive an allocation containing only Engerix B vaccine. In the months that follow, awardees will receive an allocation containing some combination of these monovalent vaccines. However, the mixture of these products that awardees will have access to during the shortage may vary and may be different from what you routinely order.

As with previous vaccines on limited allocations, the KIP requests that you place your vaccine orders during the open order period as usual each month. We will process your orders as usual but will pull the allocated vaccines and fill them according to the allocation available by the 10th of each month. Please note this means you may receive these vaccines in a separate shipment from the rest of your order.

We will use the same process we have in the past for distributing a limited allocation of vaccine. We will look at each provider's average monthly administration of the vaccine over the past six months and look at what the provider has in their on-hand inventory then distribute vaccine based on orders to assure equal access to available vaccine for all providers.

We do not expect this allocation limitation to have a significant effect on the amount of vaccine available to all providers, but it may impact the type of vaccine you receive. We will do our best to honor your requests but will also consider the needs of all providers across the state.

If you have questions, please contact your Immunization Consultant. If they are unable to answer your question, they will research your question and get back to you with an answer.

Thank you,

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